

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Declaration and Power of Attorney

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **METHODS OF FABRICATING A MEMBRANE WITH IMPROVED MECHANICAL INTEGRITY** the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by an amendment, if any, specifically referred to in this oath or declaration.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

None

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

None

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute said application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

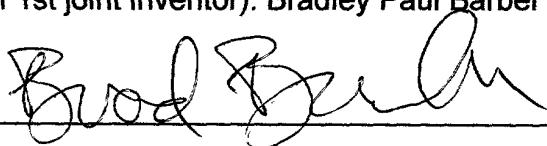
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|------------------------|------------------|
| Thomas J. Bean | (Reg. No. 44528) |
| Lester H. Birnbaum | (Reg. No. 25830) |
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| Jeffery J. Brosemer | (Reg. No. 36096) |
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| William S. Francos | (Reg. No. 38456) |
| Barry H. Freedman | (Reg. No. 26166) |
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| Gregory C. Ranieri | (Reg. No. 29695) |
| Scott J. Rittman | (Reg. No. 39010) |
| Ferdinand M. Romano | (Reg. No. 32752) |
| Eugene J. Rosenthal | (Reg. No. 36658) |
| Bruce S. Schneider | (Reg. No. 27949) |
| Ronald D. Slusky | (Reg. No. 26585) |
| David L. Smith | (Reg. No. 30592) |
| Ozer M. N. Teitelbaum | (Reg. No. 36698) |
| John P. Veschi | (Reg. No. 39058) |

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|--------------------|------------------|
| David Volejnicek | (Reg. No. 29355) |
| Charles L. Warren | (Reg. No. 27407) |
| Jeffrey M. Weinick | (Reg. No. 36304) |
| Eli Weiss | (Reg. No. 17765) |

I hereby appoint the attorney(s) on ATTACHMENT A as associate attorney(s) in the aforementioned application, with full power solely to prosecute said application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected with the prosecution of said application. No other powers are granted to such associate attorney(s) and such associate attorney(s) are specifically denied any power of substitution or revocation.

Full name of 1st joint inventor): Bradley Paul Barber

Inventor's
signature



Date 2/7/01

Residence: Chatham, New Jersey

Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: 21G Heritage Drive, Chatham, New Jersey 07928

Full name of 2nd joint inventor: Linus Albert Fetter

Inventor's
signature



Date Feb 07, 2001

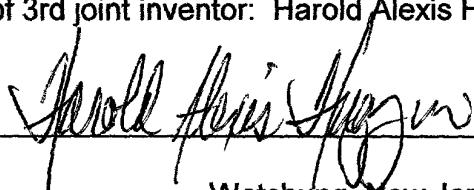
Residence: Morganville, New Jersey

Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: 41 Nolan Road, Morganville, New Jersey 07751

Full name of 3rd joint inventor: Harold Alexis Huggins

Inventor's
signature



Date 1-30-01

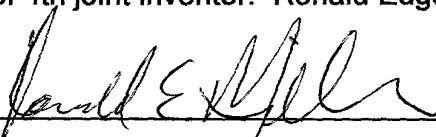
Residence: Watchung, New Jersey

Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: 615 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey 07060

Full name of 4th joint inventor: Ronald Eugene Miller

Inventor's
signature



Date 2/07/01

Residence: Riegelsville, Pennsylvania

Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: P.O. Box 592, Riegelsville, Pennsylvania 18077

ATTACHMENT A

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|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Attorney Name(s): Michael F. Brown | Reg. No.: 29,619 |
| Christopher A. Michaels | Reg. No.: 34,390 |
| Thomas T. Aquilla, Ph.D. | Reg. No.: 43,473 |
| Meghan VanLeeuwen | Reg. No.: 45,612 |

Telephone calls should be made to Brown, Pinnisi & Michaels, P.C. at:

Phone No.: (607) 256-2000
Fax No.: (607) 256-3628

All written communications are to be addressed to:

**Brown, Pinnisi & Michaels, P.C.
M&T Bank Building
118 North Tioga St., Suite 400
Ithaca, New York 14850**